

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1361

To prohibit economic support fund assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 for the Government of Turkey for fiscal year 1998 unless that Government makes certain improvements relating to human rights.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 17, 1997

Mr. ANDREWS (for himself and Mr. PORTER) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## A BILL

To prohibit economic support fund assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 for the Government of Turkey for fiscal year 1998 unless that Government makes certain improvements relating to human rights.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Turkish Human Rights  
5       Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress makes the following findings:

1           (1)(A) The Department of State, in its 1996  
2           “Country Reports on Human Rights Practices”,  
3           documented a systematic and widespread pattern of  
4           human rights abuses by the Government of Turkey.

5           (B) According to the portion of the report relat-  
6           ing to Turkey, “torture, excessive use of force, and  
7           other serious human rights abuses by the security  
8           forces persisted throughout 1996.”.

9           (2) Amnesty International, Human Rights  
10          Watch, the United Nations Committee Against Tor-  
11          ture, the European Parliament, the International  
12          Human Rights Law Group, the Lawyers Committee  
13          for Human Rights, Physicians Without Frontiers,  
14          Freedom House, the Humanitarian Law Project, the  
15          Association of the Bar of the City of New York, the  
16          Turkish Human Rights Foundation, and other  
17          human rights monitoring organizations have docu-  
18          mented extensive and continuing human rights  
19          abuses by the Government of Turkey, including the  
20          widespread use of torture and extrajudicial killings.

21          (3) The actions of the Government of Turkey  
22          are in violation of several international human rights  
23          agreements to which Turkey is a party, including  
24          the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human  
25          Rights, the Final Act of the Conference on Security

1 and Cooperation in Europe, the European Conven-  
2 tion on Human Rights, and the United Nations and  
3 European Conventions Against Torture.

4 (4) The Government of Turkey continues to  
5 deny the legitimate civil and human rights of its  
6 15,000,000 citizens of Kurdish origin and has used  
7 military force to deny them an identity, destroying  
8 more than 2,000 Kurdish villages and uprooting  
9 more than 2,000,000 Kurds.

10 (5) Turkey continues its illegal military occupa-  
11 tion of Cyprus and has obstructed efforts to reach  
12 a just and lasting resolution to the division of Cy-  
13 prus and the massive uprooting of Greek Cypriots  
14 caused by the 1974 invasion by Turkey.

15 (6) The Government of Turkey continues to  
16 blockade Armenia, obstructing the delivery of United  
17 States and international humanitarian relief sup-  
18 plies.

19 (7) Turkey continues to place prohibitive re-  
20 strictions on the religious leadership of Christian  
21 communities within Turkey and has failed to protect  
22 these communities adequately from acts of violence  
23 and vandalism.

24 (8)(A) The Congress, in the fiscal year 1997  
25 appropriation for foreign assistance, reduced assist-

1       ance under chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign As-  
2       sistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et seq.; relat-  
3       ing to the economic support fund) to Turkey to  
4       \$22,000,000 because of Turkey's human rights  
5       record and its hostile and antagonistic policies to-  
6       ward its neighbors.

7               (B) The Government of Turkey has stated that  
8       it would reject any United States assistance tied to  
9       its human rights record.

10 **SEC. 3. RESTRICTIONS ON ASSISTANCE FOR THE GOVERN-**  
11 **MENT OF TURKEY.**

12       (a) IN GENERAL.—Assistance under chapter 4 of  
13 part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.  
14 2346 et seq.; relating to the economic support fund) may  
15 not be provided for the Government of Turkey for fiscal  
16 year 1998 unless the Secretary of State determines that  
17 there has been significant progress in the following areas:

18               (1) The Government of Turkey permits domes-  
19 tic and international human rights monitoring orga-  
20 nizations, including, but not limited to, the Turkish  
21 Human Rights Foundation, the Organization on Se-  
22 curity and Cooperation in Europe, Amnesty Inter-  
23 national, and Human Rights Watch, to monitor and  
24 report on the human rights situation within its terri-  
25 tory without fear of reprisal or prosecution.

1 (2) The Government of Turkey—

2 (A) has ceased all efforts to deny the rec-  
3 ognition of the civil, cultural, and human rights  
4 of its Kurdish citizens;

5 (B) has ceased its military operations  
6 against Kurdish civilians; and

7 (C) has taken demonstrable steps toward a  
8 peaceful resolution of the Kurdish issue.

9 (3) The Government of Turkey—

10 (A) has taken actions and instituted poli-  
11 cies to demilitarize Cyprus and provide for the  
12 total withdrawal of Turkish military forces from  
13 Cyprus; and

14 (B) provides support for a settlement for  
15 the Republic of Cyprus based on a constitu-  
16 tional democracy with key United States prin-  
17 ciples of majority rule, the rule of law, the pro-  
18 tection of minority and human rights, and the  
19 provision for and implementation of the 3 basic  
20 freedoms, namely, freedom of movement, of  
21 property, and of settlement.

22 (4) The Government of Turkey has ceased its  
23 blockade of United States and international assist-  
24 ance to Armenia.

25 (5) The Government of Turkey—

1 (A) has ceased its official restrictions on  
2 Christian churches and schools; and

3 (B) provides sufficient protection  
4 against—

5 (i) acts of violence and harassment di-  
6 rected at members of the clergy and reli-  
7 gious minorities; and

8 (ii) acts of vandalism directed at  
9 church and school property.

10 (b) REPORT.—The Secretary of State shall prepare  
11 and submit to the Congress a report containing a docu-  
12 mentation of the determinations made by the Secretary  
13 under subsection (a).

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